

TRANS*ACTION

The newsletter of the North Dakota Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan (SSTP)
Published by the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT)
GOT NEWS? Contact Jane Greer, NDDOT, 701/328-2671, jgreer@state.nd.us

JANUARY 29, 2002

The first 11 months: SSTP progress report

ON MARCH 2, 2001, Gov. John Hoeven held a news conference to announce beginning development of a Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan (SSTP) that would include all jurisdictions and all modes of transportation. Eleven months later, a lot has been accomplished. Here's a summary of the highlights.

Three Director's Advisory Council meetings

The first meeting of the Director's Advisory Council (DAC) was an introduction to the SSTP project's purpose. At the second meeting, the DAC brainstormed the vision for the SSTP, and at the third meeting it finalized language for a vision, mission, and five goals. The goals corresponded to the five critical areas identified at the first Director's Transportation Forum.

Next DAC meeting:

**Wed., Feb. 20, 1-5 p.m.
Ft. Totten room, Capitol**

Two Director's Transportation Forums

At the first Forum, the group identified key issues regarding transportation in North Dakota. Today's and tomorrow's Forum will involve issues gathered from past Forum and DAC meetings, interviews with key business people, and

information gathered from transportation stakeholders, partners, and the general public. Forum participants will suggest priority initiatives from these issues and create strategies for the initiatives. The DAC will consider the Forum's recommendations at its February 20 meeting.

Meetings with stakeholders and partners

NDDOT managers and staff have attended numerous regional and statewide meetings and conventions of the Association of Counties, League of Cities, and Motor Carriers Association, and the 2001 UTTEC Powwow. They have also met with the three metropolitan planning organizations, and with the tribal planning and traffic safety program directors of three Indian nations.

Gathering public input

NDDOT contracted with the UND Bureau of Governmental Affairs to conduct a statewide phone survey of the public. In addition, NDDOT did a mail survey of 102 businesses and interviews with 50 key businesses.

Transportation studies

NDDOT contracted with the NDSU Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute for a number of studies, including:

- Strategic Freight Analysis
- Economic Impacts of Transportation
- Transportation Roles & Responsibilities

- Various transportation needs studies

The result? Mission, vision, goals, issues

N.D.'s transportation mission

"To provide a transportation system that offers personal choices, enhances business opportunities, and promotes the wise use of all resources." (DAC, 1/3/02)

SSTP vision

"North Dakota's transportation system is an important part of regional, national, and global systems, developed strategically to help grow and diversify the economy and enhance North Dakota's quality of place." (DAC, 1/3/02)

SSTP goals

These goals are based on five critical areas recommended by the first Transportation Forum.

- **Safety:** "Safe and secure transportation for residents, visitors, and freight."
- **Personal mobility:** "A transportation system that allows optimum personal mobility."
- **Freight mobility:** "A transportation system that allows the efficient and effective movement of freight."
- **Economic competitiveness:** "A transportation system that enhances economic diversity, growth, and competitiveness."
- **Revenue & finance:** "Funding sufficient to protect North Dakota's transportation investment and address future transportation needs." (DAC, 1/3/02)

SSTP issues

Sixteen key issues have been gleaned from partners, stakeholders, representatives of all jurisdictions and transportation modes, business owners, and the general public. On Jan. 29-30, Forum participants will suggest priority initiatives and create strategies for those initiatives. The issues address whether North Dakota should:

- define the levels of transportation service it will strive to provide and maintain
- strategically prioritize its use of transportation resources
- actively participate in regional transportation initiatives, programs, studies, and projects
- enhance communication and cooperation

between government jurisdictions and tribal authorities, modes of transportation, and the public and private sectors

- increase its emphasis on safety and security as integral components in planning, developing, and maintaining the transportation system
- develop a statewide passenger service and transit plan
- conduct a statewide freight origin and destination study to identify priority transportation corridors and facilities
- determine the feasibility of, and identify the conditions necessary for, developing an intermodal freight facility or facilities
- develop management plans for priority transportation corridors and facilities?
- take the lead role in promoting public-private partnerships (for example, studies and projects) to bring about selected transportation initiatives
- analyze the economic impacts of seasonal load restrictions, and the opportunities and impacts of establishing a statewide program to coordinate the administration of load restrictions
- monitor trends in global agriculture and manufacturing and identify potential impacts to the transportation system
- incorporate economic competitiveness as an integral component of its transportation investment strategy?
- determine the opportunities for, and the economic and safety impacts of, a regional uniform truck size, weight, and permitting system?
- appropriately use intelligent transportation system technologies?
- create a special transportation program (infrastructure funding and technical assistance) to facilitate economic development and competitiveness?

We want transportation news!

The Trans*Action newsletter is intended to promote a free flow of information about transportation in North Dakota.

Please send news items to Jane Greer,
NDDOT, 701/328-2671, jgreer@state.nd.us